



Imperfect Strangers

Stuart Woods

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Sandy Kinsolving's once-glittering life hangs by a threat; his future depends on his wife's inheritance and whether or not she's about to throw him out on his ear. What he wouldn't give for a solution to his money and marriage problems.

If this were an Alfred Hitchcock movie, the solution would be obvious. Enter a stranger with wife problems of his own, who offers a violent -- and mutually advantageous -- proposal.

Them in the time it takes to whisper a word, Kinsolving's normal life ends. What radiates like a mirage before him is wealth, security, and freedom. But lurking in the shadows are a brutal murder he cannot prevent, and a madman who stalks his every waking moment.

Imperfect Strangers Details

Date : Published 2007 (first published January 1st 1995)

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Author : Stuart Woods

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From Reader Review Imperfect Strangers for online ebook

Coleen says

Being a Woods fan, I found this book from his past at a book sale, and bought it! Excellent story. Better than the Stone Barrington series (which this book is not one of) and has a more in-depth plot. I enjoyed the book from start to finish and read it in record time.

I passed the book to another reader who was anxious to read it.

Lynda says

To commit the perfect murders, you need to take into account all the possibilities for failure including people changing their minds and to have contingencies in place. The story was interesting, however; my satisfaction with the book was spotty. There were a few grammar issues that required me to reread the sentence to be sure I read it correctly.

Judy says

Insipid.

Brent says

Sandy, the novel's main protagonist, enters a high stakes contest when he agrees to swap wife murderer's with a stranger he meets on the plane. Despite his change of heart at the last minute, the story unfolds as he navigates the twists and turns. Complicated by a new love, Sandy is left to maintain his own innocence in the eyes of the law while continually avoiding danger imposed by this imperfect stranger.

I read this in one day on an airplane. Pretty easy read, not bad.

Monica Vidal says

audiobook

It started very promising but became a train wreck from the middle to the end. I got interested because of the "strangers in a train" plot, but it didn't carry the same punch as the movie or as "the kind worth killing" (which is another book that explores the same theme).

I thought Sandie was an entitled asshole, who got away waaaaay too easily. And Peter had all the greatness

of a bad villain. I didn't like how it ended and how , even though Sandie agreed with their pact, the author tried to made him into a victim. Fuck no. He took zero responsibility for what he did.

Did not appreciate it. Plus, I didn't like the narrator. He didn't make accents to the British characters, so I couldn't tell who was American and who was British.

Will says

Sandy Kinsolving's journey to rapture. Set away in a family business, Sandy meets a stranger on a London to NYC flight who intimates similar problems with the woman he's married to. In their deal with the devil, each man agrees to murder the other's wife. Confronted with a vicious divorce notice, Sandy has only mixed feelings as his wife is dispatched. By subcontracting the murder, the police investigation is thwarted, although they suspect Sandy is behind it. Forced to uphold his end of the bargain, Sandy goes to do the deed and finds that his target is his current lover. Sandy begins a circuitous trail of discovery and planning to neutralize Peter, and escape with his new life and new wife, Cara. The final showdown is at Alcatraz Island, and Sandy is able to wriggle out of blame and become the winner.

John says

This started out with a lot of promise. It seemed to sputter at the end. The premise was an outstanding one. Two unhappily married men agree to kill each others spouses. One of the two is a bit unbalanced. The tension just didn't sustain itself the entire book.

Gail O'Connor says

One of the vest Stuart Woods books that I've read. Amazing plot twist

Shelley says

This was a new twist on an old classic, "Strangers on a Train". The premise and the characters were all really good for me up until the end where it petered out a bit, pun intended as the bad guy is named Peter. Lackluster and predictable ending aside, I still quite enjoyed the story. I found it to be much better than the first Woods book I read, so it will be interesting to see what the future ones hold. My friend's dad is a huge fan and passes all his books along to me when he's through so I have about a paper box full of Stuart Woods alone.

Steve says

6-2-2015 It appears this is the one Stuart Woods I haven't read. I will do so now.

I just put a one star to be able to start a review.

I started reading it and after the first chapter, it was obvious I knew the plot and the characters.

I went to the end of the book to refresh my memory but this is a book I liked to read ONCE but not one of the Stone B's I can re-read every few years.

It is a classic murder mystery plot with a twist.

Linda says

It was one of his earlier books and it was okay but he as gotten so much better as the years went on

Linda Roberti says

When I started to read, I was reminded of another book . Glad I continued. Clearly in character with Stuart Woods's other writings. Mr. Woods, keep writing; I'll keep reading.

LJ says

IMPERFECT STRANGERS - Okay

Woods, Stuart - Standalone

On a flight home from London to New York, Sandy Kingsolving strikes up a conversation with a stranger who will change his life forever. Proposing to perfect Hitchcock's plan from Strangers on a Train and thereby solve Sandy's marital problems, the stranger offers him a glistening new future as well as an unstoppable nightmare.

There was some good suspense but I couldn't get involved with the main character.

Gretchen says

Imperfect Strangers is a spin on the classic Strangers on a Train. Always enjoy Stuart Woods although this is not one of his Stone Barrington series. His characters feel like comfortable shoes even though one would like to shake some sense into them. I do like how Stuart Woods' male characters have such good relations with their sons. Enjoy the adventures of Sandy and Cara as they maneuver to stay alive.

Amy says

Trolling through the library, without my Goodreads "to-read" list... looking for something to excite me beyond my less-than-exciting pile of books to-be-read in the guest bedroom.... I found a section of books by

this author. Scrolling through his books, I was hoping for #1 of a series, I ended up with this book (#1 of a series wasn't on the shelf).

I don't think any book could have less developed characters than this book. Flat. Flatter than flat. Negative flat. :)

That being said, the plot is semi-vortex - from a spinning mass of nebulosity, a tightly wound plot that spins ever faster and faster, sucks us in until the end.

The perfect man and the perfect woman are far too perfect, and the initial frustration (was anyone else frustrated watching "Leave it to Beaver"? Yelling at Wally to stop following Eddie? no? just me? whatever) with the protagonist who gets sucked in to the "deal" with the antagonist (who, again, is Mr flat) was killing me. And did I mention plot holes/inconsistencies? I was hoping they were going to turn out to be something... apparently, they were just bad editing/writing.

OK, so we've got plot holes, flat characters, and a vortex-plot. Plot wins. And it's got Napa.... gotta love Napa.

We'll try another book by this author... never judge anything without giving it a second chance.
